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Legal Clinic Program

2016

Guardian Ad Litem

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Florida A&M University College of Law

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GUARDIAN AD LITEM (GAL): This clinic focuses on legal advocacy on behalf of children, while providing students with a strong foundation in lawyering skills and values. This clinic addresses constitutional, statutory, and common laws impacting children, the legal interests of parents, and the government and the law's evolving conception of children's rights. In addition, the class examines the role of the child's attorney and ethical considerations in representing children. The substantive areas discussed include dependency, delinquency, guardianship, mental health, disability, medical decision-making, education law, child support, emancipation, family violence and immigration. Special emphasis is placed on dependency law, including abuse and neglect, foster care, termination of parental rights, adoption, children's right to services and protection from harm, and state liability for harm. In addition, students are required to participate in intake proceedings at the local Legal Aid Society office during the week and obtain a set number of court observation hours in both dependency and delinquency court.

Pre-requisite: *Professional Responsibility and FL Bar Clearance Letter required.*

Credits-6

Course No. 6981

Class No. 4842

Sec. 301